

Once every two years, the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), which represents nearly 85 percent of total American private sector investments in Africa, convenes the premier gathering in the United States of business and government leaders who are united by their shared commitment to promoting trade and investment between the U.S. and Africa. CCA's fifth U.S.-Africa Business Summit will be held this year from June 21-24 in Baltimore, Maryland.

The theme of this year's Summit is "Where does your business fit?" and it will provide a unique opportunity for networking and a forum for forging partnerships and business relationships. The Summit aspires to facilitate export/import trading, identify agents, representatives and distributors, encourage joint venture partnerships and strategic alliances, and to promote foreign direct investment in Africa. It will be an exceptional opportunity for Africa to directly reach the people and business of the U.S.

The West Africa International Business Linkages (WAIBL) program, a USAID funded program managed by CCA aims to foster business exchange between the US and West Africa by helping to link U.S. and West African partners, remove barriers to activity and facilitate networking. WAIBL works to provide relevant market information and identify potential partners and sources of financing in addition to monitoring transactions and organizing sector-specific business forums in the U.S. and West Africa. To date we have recorded over 600 transactions amounting to more than \$150 million.

For this year's Summit, WAIBL will sponsor the registration for 30 West African participants from a broad range of sectors. The goal is to sponsor West African companies with viable business plans and to be able to match them up with potential U.S. partners in advance so that they can take full advantage of networking opportunities provided by the Summit. With this in mind, WAIBL would like to request your assistance in nominating West African companies you feel will benefit from attending the Summit. **Each company should fill out the company profile attached to this letter**, and which can be found on the WAIBL website: www.ccawaibl.org, and send it back to me via fax at: 202-835-1117 or via email at: edassanou@africacncl.org by **April 31, 2005**.

The companies will be notified directly of their selection. **The sponsorship will cover the registration fee of \$1500, but will not cover the travel and lodging expenses.**

WAIBL will also sponsor two workshops aimed at facilitating transactions between West African and U.S. firms. These workshops will serve as a forum for deal making as well as an informational resource on doing business in West Africa.

If you have any questions, or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I thank you for your collaboration, and look forward to receiving your nominees.

Sincerely,

Esther Dassanou
WAIBL Program Director

1100 17th Street, N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-835-1115 • Fax: 202-835-1117 • Email: cca@africacncl.org • www.africacncl.org

A Nonprofit 501(c) (3) Corporation